

**EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY JANUARY 21ST– 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	April 2015- APRIL 2016	
		Present	Absent
Edna Elijah, Chair	P	5	0
Austin Scott, Vice, Chair	A	3	2
Gregory T. Boardman	A	3	2
Towana Bonaparte	A	4	1
Dr. Ciara L. Bostick	A	3	2
Maureen S. Dinnen	P	2	3
Jennifer Gordon	P	3	0
Rochelle Horowitz	P	3	2
Deniece Jones	P	4	1
Jennifer L. Kimmey	P	4	1
Sam L. Mitchell	A	2	2
Dr. Maureen Persi	P	3	2
Jonathan Schwartz	P	3	1
Betty Shelley	A	2	1
M. Elaine Wilson	A	2	3
Lauren Wood	P	1	0

**Appointed Members to the Board: 16
Needed to constitute a quorum: 9**

Staff

Junia Robinson, staff liaison
Charles Webster, BCPS liaison
Betty Shelley, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association

I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – Chair, Edna Elijah

II. Attendance by Roll Call – Chair, Edna Elijah

Determination of quorum

As of this date, January 21, 2016, there are 16 appointed members to the board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

III. **Approve minutes** (November 19th, 2015)

Motion by Ms. Dinnen seconded by Dr. Persi, that the said minutes for November 19th, 2015 be approved. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Presentation:** Ms. Rochelle Horowitz, EAB Board member

Ms. Horowitz began her presentation about the Tangelo Park Program that she read in the New York Times. Ms. Horowitz said she eventually spoke to Mr. Harris Rosen who is “an amazing person”. She said Mr. Rosen has established six or seven hotels in Orlando, Florida. Ms. Horowitz said she had a wonderful conversation with Mr. Rosen who said “Rochelle our program is absolutely wonderful but I haven’t had any other takers”. She explained, “He has spent a lot of money and devoted a good part of his life, in addition to running his hotels and having a family”.

She shared that this program operates in Tangelo park, a small community in Orlando and the people who owns homes there are actually homeowners not renters. Ms. Horowitz expressed what was happening was “this area wasn’t being successful it was a high crime rate, many kids didn’t graduate from high school and he pretty much turned all of that around”. She shared his background is quite interesting. Ms. Horowitz said “I don’t think there’s too many Harris Rosen’s in this world, unfortunately”. She said “what he saw in Tangelo Park were lovely children, like children in every community but he saw a lack of hope in the families and the children were kind of falling through the cracks”.

Ms. Horowitz explained that through this program, Mr. Rosen offered free day care to children ages 2 – 4 years old and provided training to the teachers and paid to renovate nine homes in the neighborhood to licensed preschools. The program is now for children from preschool to high school. The teachers who work at the day care live at Tangelo Park. She said by the time the kids are ready for kindergarten, they are already reading. Ms. Horowitz said there are numerous articles written about the success of the program and specifically the children.

Ms. Horowitz said that according to the article Mr. Rosen has “given over 10 million dollars to the preschool programs, mentoring, parenting classes and full scholarships”. She said the first group of preschoolers is juniors in college and some have perhaps graduated since the article was about 2 years old.

In an article, Ms. Horowitz read “Tangelo Park graduates have gone on to become Doctors, Teachers, Lawyers and Detectives”.

Chair Elijah asked Ms. Horowitz “has Mr. Rosen offered these programs to Broward schools”? She replied by saying “he’s a wealthy man but he cannot fund programs in other places”. Chair Elijah continued by asking “what is your direction as it relates to this program and the Education Advisory Board”?

Ms. Horowitz responded by saying "I would pose that question to the Board, what direction, if any do you think we should have"?

Mr. Schwartz said "I think this would be a good opportunity to introduce Mr. Rosen to the non-profit community in our City and there are a number of non-profits that would help with the early education programs similar to what he is already doing". He continued by saying "this could also be through Broward College or Broward community foundation or other organizations that could help funnel those resources into existing non-profits or create a new non-profit starting from scratch".

Ms. Horowitz shared that the Board has been invited to Orlando to meet with Mr. Rosen.

Ms. Maureen Dinnen expressed that "this whole thing is because of one person being the engine, he not only has the money but he has the drive and the consistency to stay with it". She continued by saying "it would seem to me that you might want to meet with people who are members of the Broward workshop or the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, maybe out there in our community we have somebody who would take the lead and use these other resources but you do need in my opinion an engine like the Rosen".

Mr. Schwartz said he can send the contact information for the Broward Alliance to Ms. Horowitz.

Dr. Persi replied by saying "maybe the invitation is something we should consider before we reach out to the community because it's very nice to read all of this however; I'm a hands on kind of person and I would like to visit and see for myself what it's all about before reaching out to people". She continued by saying "I think we would come in with a more stronger knowledge base if we went up to Orlando, we don't all have to go but a group of us can go, I would be willing to drive I have a station wagon I can fit a few people in my car and just go up for the day and meet with him and really see what it's all about and come back feeling more empowered than just reading his articles because we see it first-hand".

Chair Elijah said "we have a sunshine law and all these different kind of things so I'm going to give the floor to Robinson and before we have other discussions in reference to a trip or decision wise, she needs to find out if this could be done all of us going in a station wagon with Dr. P supporting this that we are not going to really be involved in it's going to be all these different other entities I just need you to get some kind of direction and what have you before we even put anything like that on the floor".

Ms. Jones asked "if we are in Orlando can we go and visit by ourselves"? Ms. Horowitz responded by saying "you would have to call".

Staff Liaison, Junia Robinson said "I was going to make a few suggestions; if this is a project the board wants to participate; you can with the various non-profits and all the different entities can be at the same table to discuss and provide input". "In regards to sunshine, if the board decides to go on a road/field trip together, you just have to remember a few things like you cannot discuss any business matters related to the board while on the trip". She continued by saying "the suggestions that Ms. Jones said should you decide to go on your

own, that would be a bit more respectful of the sunshine, going as a group I would have to discuss with the City attorney's office".

V. Current business

A. City Staff update – Junia Robinson

Junia Robinson, staff liaison began her updates by sharing with the board that the reason Mr. Webster is not in attendance is because of a conflict with "the conversation with the district meeting taking place tonight at the same time".

Junia announced the "Ed Talk" event taking place this Saturday at the Signature Grand hosted by the Broward County Public Schools. She encouraged board members to attend the event this year.

Junia shared a Parent engagement conference taking place March 05th, at Piper High School. She also announced the Neighbor support Night scheduled for Thursday, February 11th at 5:30PM, City Hall. Junia asked for the boards' support in attending this yearly event hosted by the City for the Neighbors.

B. Board discussions/member updates

Mr. Schwartz said "as many of you may know there's a bill going through the Florida legislature that will allow weapons/firearms to be carried on college campuses. Today the Senate judiciary committee confirmed that the bill would not go to a hearing however; it is moving through the Florida house. I know our City Commission and Mayor are aware of it and are opposed to it, but if we want to pass along our views as a board and how we feel to the City Commission about what our local community is thinking".

Junia, staff liaison said that the board could send their thoughts regarding this bill as a communication to the City Commission.

VI. Communication to City Commission

MOTION by Ms. Horowitz, seconded by Mrs. Kimmey that the Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board is in strong opposition to Senate Bill 68/House Bill 4001 regarding the carrying of guns on college campuses with a special concern for the City of Fort Lauderdale dual enrolled students.

In a voice vote, the Motion passed unanimously.

VII. New/Future Business

Chair Elijah opened by saying “2016 we think of positive goals that we want to accomplish this second half here. I will go back a little bit and at one time Ms. Robinson mentioned, to us that if we know of positive things happening to students in your neighborhood to bring some of that information back to us for documentation to let the City know some of the positive things happening with our students”.

Ms. Jones asked if Ms. Robinson had contact with the school Principals to inquire about “good news” with students happening in the schools. She said that most of the students are neighborhood kids aside from the magnet students who are “bused” in. Ms. Jones suggested that the Principals could send monthly reports of student achievements and success on the honor roll or similar.

Chair Elijah also reminded the Board that there are several speakers scheduled for presentations with the EAB including Mrs. Mickey Pope, Broward County Public Schools Promise Program, Angela Brown, Dillard Elementary School and the Marine program at New River Middle School.

Next Meeting and Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for, Thursday, February 18, 2016

City hall, 8th floor conference room